NINA A. FROLOVA / TATYANA N. SMEKALOVA / YURI L. DJUKOV

CYZICENES FROM THE STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MOSCOW AND THE STATE HERMITAGE COLLECTIONS, ST. PETERSBURG

Plates 1-3

Edited by S. Mani Hurter and W. Fischer-Bossert

Editors’ note

We are much indebted to the Russian authors for entrusting their article to us. There are two changes from the original version. One was to merge the collections of St. Petersburg and of Moscow and the second, more important, was to put the coins in the order used in the Catalogue of the Boston Museum and not according to the groups von Fritze had proposed in 1912.

INTRODUCTION

The term «Cyzicenes» is applied to the coins minted in electrum from the second quarter of the 6th century down to the last quarter of the 4th century BC at Cyzicus, a city located on a peninsula in the historical region of the Propontis.1

The Cyzicenes occupied a special position among the electrum issued by the Greek cities in Asia Minor. For one they enjoyed an immense popularity throughout the 6th to the 4th centuries. Further, they played an important role as international

Abbreviations

BMFA A. BALDWIN BRETT, Catalogue of Greek Coins at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Boston 1955)

v. FRITZE H. von FRITZE, Die Elektronprägung von Kyzikos, Nomisma 7 (Berlin 1912)


MYRMEKION HOARD A. BUTJAGIN et al., The Myrmekion Hoard. New discoveries in Bosporos of the Hermitage archaeological expedition (St. Petersburg 2004, mostly in Russian)

VDI Vestnik Drevnej Istorii

currency for many ancient cities in the Black Sea area. Their «white gold» was apparently considered a metal in its own right, so that the coins could circulate at a certain fixed exchange rate independent of the actual gold content in their alloy. 

Comprehensive analysis of the alloys of Cyzicene electrum allowed T.N. Smekalova and J.L. Djukov to confirm two points. Firstly, the high gold content of the electrum is typical of the initial period of their circulation ca. 570/560-500 BC only; secondly, it was only within this early period the coins were struck in natural, alluvial white gold.

The fact that the early Cyzicene electrum coins were made of natural white gold means that this naturally mined white gold metal cannot be opposed to electrum as such. It was long assumed that white gold meant a natural mixture, acquired through a thermal treatment of particles of wind-blown gold-containing ores, while electrum in the strict sense of the word is an artificial gold/silver alloy, mostly with addition of a certain amount of copper. This copper part was long taken to be the proof of the artificial origin of electrum. Yet there are traces of copper in the early Cyzicenes which were definitely struck in alluvial white gold. T.N. Smekalova e.g. offers analysis samples of two very early coins of the same type struck in white gold with wildly different percentages of copper. The presence of a certain small amount of copper in the coins of the early period are not necessarily an indication of an artificial origin of the alloy. Research by T. Smekalova and J. Djukov shows that the early Cyzicene coins of the first half of the 6th century are made of natural white gold. It was only from perhaps the 3rd quarter of the 6th century on that clearly artificially produced alloys were used.

These data were confirmed by the analyses of S.A. Bulatovich on the 71 staters of the Orlovka hoard which all date to the 5th and 4th centuries BC.

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3 See e.g. the review of G. Le Rider, La naissance de la monnaie, by J.H. Kroll, SNR 80, 2001, pp. 199-206.
6 Ibid., p. 277; p. 281, note 9.
7 SHM 1179 with 2,1 % copper, SHM 1180 with no less than 8.8 %.
8 Roughly von Fritz’s Group II.
9 S.A. Bulatovich, A Hoard of Cyzicenes from Orlovka, VDI 1970/2, p. 73-86; the dates are those of von Fritz.
1. No First Period coins (600-500 BC) were present in the Orlovka hoard, so none could be analysed.

2. The Second Period coins (500-460 BC) showed a gold content of 52.45%.

3. The Third Period coins (460-400 BC) have a gold content of 51.40%.

4. The Fourth Period coins (400-330 BC) have a gold content of 51.20%.

We can thus see from the data acquired by S. Bulatovich for coins of almost two centuries (550-330 BC) that the average gold percentage in the alloy did not decrease by more than 1.2%. She points out chaotic shifts in the alloy within the groups which, however, did not influence the average nor the coin’s value or the time of striking.10 This peculiarity had also been observed by E. Schulz in his research on Cyzicene metal.11 As early as 1908, such data of variations in the metal contents not related to the coins’ nominal value and/or time of manufacture were offered by J. Hammer.12 Similar conclusions were reached by P. Marchetti for the Cyzicenes issued in the 4th century BC,13 and a similar observation was made by J.F. Healy, who supported Marchetti’s theory that the high value of Cyzicene coins did not depend on the actual percentage of gold in their alloy.14

It is thus safe to assume that Cyzicene electrum always held a high nominal value; it was widely used as a reliable means of payment and was an internationally accepted currency in the 5th and especially the 4th century BC in an area that reached from the Black Sea to southern Greece and from Bulgaria to the Near East.

10 Ibid., p. 84 n. 40.
11 E.F. Schulz, Kyzikinos ajecho razby, Numismati ki Listy 6, 1950/1, p. 120.
12 J. Hammer, Der Feingehalt der griechischen und römischen Münzen, ZfN 26, 1908, pp. 26-33.
13 P. Marchetti, Le cours du Cyzicène au IVe siècle, RBN 122, 1976, pp. 35-38.
## CYZICENE ELECTRUM COINS IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MOSCOW, AND THE STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM, ST. PETERSBURG

GIM State Historical Museum, Moscow. For a detailed description see N.A. Frolova, Bulletin of Ancient History 2004

SHM State Hermitage Museum Collections, St. Petersburg. For a detailed description see Smekalova / Djukov, RBN 145, 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMFA Inv.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Denom</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Au</th>
<th>Ag</th>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>Illustrated</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1/12</td>
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<td>97</td>
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<td>37.9</td>
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</table>

15 The coins are arranged according to BMFA; this differs somewhat from von Fritze’s 4 groups but it is chronologically more satisfactory; cf. ACGC pp. 263-267. - For the X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy analyses see Smekalova/Djukov (above, n. 4), p. 22 and Djukov/Smekalova (above, n. 5).

Footnotes see p. 10.
<table>
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<th>BMFA Inv.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Denom</th>
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<th>von Fritze</th>
<th>Au</th>
<th>Ag</th>
<th>Cu</th>
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<td>Satyr kneeling l. holding tunny</td>
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<td>Hercules kneeling r. with club</td>
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<td>107</td>
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<td>cf. 1465 SHM 1184</td>
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<td>Lion scalp facing</td>
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<td>1476 SHM 1206(^{12})</td>
<td>Young male head l. on round disk</td>
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<td>1484 SHM 1210(^{13})</td>
<td>Helmeted nude warrior kneeling l.</td>
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<td>15.91</td>
<td>116</td>
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<td>Boy riding l. on dolphin</td>
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<td>16.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>1489 GIM 47</td>
<td>Youth kneeling l., holding tunny</td>
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<td>0.64</td>
<td>113</td>
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<td>1490 GIM 37</td>
<td>Warrior kneeling r.</td>
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<td>16.05</td>
<td>117</td>
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<td>Hoplite runner with arms r.</td>
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<td>Cecrops l.</td>
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<tr>
<td>cf. 1508 SHM 1207</td>
<td>Female head l. wearing sphendone</td>
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<td>2.68</td>
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<td>BMFA v.Fr. 166</td>
<td>Persian archer kneeling r., checking arrow</td>
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<td>Head of Zeus Ammon r.</td>
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<td>Head of Attys r.</td>
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<td>cf. v.Fr. 125</td>
<td>Man-headed bull l., head facing(^{17})</td>
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<td>16.03</td>
<td>cf.125</td>
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<td>Dionysos reclining l.</td>
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<td>Apollon riding l. on swan</td>
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<td>43.8</td>
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<td>cf. 1544 SHM 1230(^{20})</td>
<td>Eleutheria seated Lion base inscribed EAEY#EPI</td>
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<td>215</td>
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<td>41.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cf. 1544 SHM 1231(^{21})</td>
<td>Demeter kneeling r. holding two torches</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>15.91</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1557 SHM 1229(^{22})</td>
<td>Young groom walking horse r.</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>15.99</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>51.7</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1560 SHM 1224(^{23})</td>
<td>Head of Ammon l.</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>15.98</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnotes see p. 10.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMFA</th>
<th>Inv.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Denom</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>von Fritze</th>
<th>Au</th>
<th>Ag</th>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>Illustrated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1561</td>
<td>SHM 1226</td>
<td>Portrait head of bearded man r.</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>15.97</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cf. 1561</td>
<td>SHM 1228</td>
<td>Portrait head of bearded man l.</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>16.01</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMFA - v.Fr. 198</td>
<td>SHM 1227</td>
<td>Portrait head of Scyth (?) r.</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>15.87</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cf. 1565</td>
<td>SHM 1215</td>
<td>Helmeted head of Athena l.</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>16.02</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1564</td>
<td>SHM 1225</td>
<td>Bearded head of Silenos l.</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>15.99</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1569</td>
<td>SHM1232</td>
<td>Eagle l., set on round disk</td>
<td>stater</td>
<td>15.96</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Pl. 3, 66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16 Published in: Myrmekion Hoard 102 (the photos of 102 and 103 are switched, see SMEKALOVA / DJUKOV, supra, n. 4, pl. 4, 1 and 2).
17 Myrmekion Hoard 103.
18 Myrmekion Hoard 104.
19 Myrmekion Hoard 105 (obv. turned the wrong way).
21 Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1147; published in: Myrmekion Hoard 108. The head is in fact not Athena but a youthful warrior; see S. Mani Hurter, SM 57/2007, fasc. 227, pp. 67-68.
22 Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1150.
24 Myrmekion Hoard 111.
25 Myrmekion Hoard 107.
26 Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1158.
27 Myrmekion Hoard 125.
28 Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1157; published in: Myrmekion Hoard 112.
29 Myrmekion Hoard 122.
30 ex Taman’ / Pulentzov Hoard (IGCH 1013); Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1152; published in: Myrmekion Hoard 109.
31 Myrmekion Hoard 110.
32 Myrmekion Hoard 124.
33 Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1164; published in: Myrmekion Hoard 126.
34 Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1161.
35 Myrmekion Hoard 127.
36 Myrmekion Hoard 130.
37 Myrmekion Hoard 114.
38 Later than v. Fr. 125, 1st half of 4th cent. (?); Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1166; Myrmekion Hoard 128.
39 ex Taman’ / Pulentzov Hoard (IGCH 1013); Myrmekion Hoard 113.
40 ex Kertsch-Hort (IGCH 1011); published in: Myrmekion Hoard 131.
41 ex Kertsch-Hort (IGCH 1011).
42 ex Kertsch-Hort (IGCH 1011); published in: Myrmekion Hoard 119.
43 Myrmekion Hoard 118.
44 Schlessinger 13, 1935, 1173; published in: Myrmekion Hoard 115.
45 Myrmekion Hoard 116.
47 BMFA 1563 has head of Athena right. Published in: Myrmekion Hoard 129.
48 Published in: Myrmekion Hoard 120.
FINDS OF CYZICENES FROM THE NORTHERN BLACK SEA REGION

D. Shelov published an article dedicated to the discoveries of Cyzicene coins in the historical area of the Bosporus, but unfortunately he did not list the various finds separately. For the little information there is we therefore depend on A. Ashik’s notes from 1848.

The Kertch Hoard (IGCH 1011)

This hoard found in 1834 near Kertch was never fully recorded. It was first mentioned by Y. Liutzenko who wrote about “up to 200 double Cyzicene staters”; however, according to IGCH, he was apparently confusing it with another hoard of unknown provenance and content. It was first mentioned by A. Ashik, but no description of the coins themselves was given. Four Cyzicene staters of this hoard entered the State Hermitage collection, but the fourth, mentioned in the catalogue by Prince Sibirsky (Fig. 1, 3) is missing today from the Hermitage.

1. Obv. Apollo, wearing wreath and nude to waist, holding laurel branch, sitting left on a swan. von Fritze, 150, pl. IV, 37; BMFA 1543. Inv. 1220; here Pl. 3, 56.
2. Obv. Demeter, kneeling right, holding two torches. von Fritze 216, pl. VI, 28; BMFA -. Inv. 1231; here Pl. 3, 58.
3. Obv. Goddess Eleutheria seated right on base which is inscribed ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ. von Fritze 215, pl. VI, 27; BMFA -. Inv. 1230; here Pl. 3, 57.
4. Obv. Poseidon sitting right on seahorse. von Fritze 147, pl. IV, 34; p. 13, Fig. 1.

The Taman’ / Pulentzov Hoard (IGCH 1013)

Found at Taman’ in 1845. This hoard, which again was unfortunately never fully recorded, contained at least four Cyzicene staters, three of which entered the State Hermitage collection. It was also first mentioned by A. Ashik, though no descriptions of the coins were given.

1. Obv. Lion’s scalp facing. von Fritze 82, pl. III, 1; BMFA 1473. Inv. 1194; here Pl. 2, 36.
2. Obv. Dionysos, wearing wreath and naked to the waist, reclining to left with kantharos in right hand; below, thyrsus. von Fritze 155, pl. V, 3; BMFA 1541. Inv. 1221; here Pl. 3, 55.

49 D.B. Shelov, Cyzicene Staters in Bosporus, VDI 1949/2, pp. 93-98 (in Russian).
50 A. Ashik, Bosporan Kingdom (Odessa 1848/49, in Russian). Part II, pp. 17-18; Part III, pl. 11-14; however, without any descriptions of the coins.
51 Y. Liutzenko, Antiquities of the Bosporus Cimmericus (St. Petersburg 1854, in Russian), Vol. II, p. 154. For the various additional literature on this and the following hoard see IGCH p. 134.
52 Ashik (supra, n. 50) Part III, pp. 95-94.
53 Ashik (supra, n. 50) Part II, pp. 17-18; Part III, Pl. 11-14. The four Cyzicenes were identified by K. Regling and A.N. Zograph.
3. Obv. Lion, right, holding sword in his front paws and bending it. von Fritze 177, pl. V, 25; BMFA 1502; here p. 13, Fig. 2. Today this third coin is missing from the State Hermitage collection.

In the article on the Pulentzov hoard, E. Diamant reports that in the middle of the 19th century the collection of Prince A. Sibirsky contained another stater from the Pulentzov hoard.\textsuperscript{54}


However, the line drawing of the coin in the publication of the Sibirsky collection differs from the specimen in the Hermitage, but it is not clear whether it is another specimen or just a bad drawing.

\begin{center}
\textit{Map of find spots mentioned in this article}
\end{center}

1 Kerkinitis 5 Olbia  
2 Myrmekion 6 Orlovka  
3 Niconium 7 Pantikapaion  
4 Nymphaion 8 Taman’

\textsuperscript{54} E.I. Diamant, New Information on the Pulentzov Hoard of Golden Coins, NiSf. (Kiew 1971, in Russian), p. 83 on Sibirsky \textit{(supra}, n. 29) fig. 1, 2; I.V. Tunkina, Unknown Archive Data on the Pulentzov Hoard, Bosporskiy Phenomen (St. Petersburg 2002, in Russian), pp. 266-271.
Individual Finds in the Northern Black Sea Region

A stater found in 1969 on the Taman peninsula, near ancient Phanagoria

Obv. Gaia emerging from the earth, carrying the infant Erechthonios, the mythical king of Athens. von Fritze 157, pl. V, 5. BMFA 1500. 2nd half of 5th century.\(^{55}\)

A stater found in 1948 in the excavations of Panticapaeum\(^{56}\)

Obv. Head of boar left. Unpublished, but see Liewald / Hurter 2002, p. 34, 45a. Pushkin Museum, Moscow, fig. I, 1. 3rd quarter of 6th century; here Fig. 3.

A stater found in the area of ancient Kerkinitis (modern Eupatoria, Crimean Peninsula)

Obv. He-goat with bent legs left. von Fritze 92, pl. III, 11; BMFA 1464-1st half of 5th century. Whereabouts unknown; here Fig. 4 (slightly enlarged).

A stater found in 1998 in the excavations at Nymphaeum\(^{57}\)

Obv. Head of Ammon three-quarter facing left. von Fritze 183, pl. V, 31 = BMFA 1559; published in ‘Myrmekion Hoard’ 100, probably the fourth specimen of this impressive obverse type. See Fig. 5.

Y. Liutzenko wrote of another hoard the contents of which remained unknown.\(^{58}\) This could be the one mentioned in IGCH note to 1011.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5


\(^{56}\) See Shelov (supra, n. 49), 24.


\(^{58}\) Liutzenko (supra, n. 51), Vol. II, p. 154; see ibid. pp. 235-236 (Hertz).
References

von Fritze see p. 5
Karyshkovskiy 1960 P.O. Karyshkovskiy, On the Circulation of Cyzicenes in Olbia (in Russian), Num. i Epigr. 2, 1960, p. 3-12
Karyshkovskiy 2003 - , Coins (Odessa 2003), p. 302
OAK Otchet Arkheologicheskoï Komissii, St. Petersburg

1 Hekte. Obv. Tunny fish right; below, head of tunny. von Fritze 13, pl. 1, 13. Published with the coins of Olbia in: Choix de médailles antiques d’Olbiopolis ou Olbia faisant partie du cabinet de Blaramberg à Odessa (Paris 1822), p. 37, № b, pl. II b.; Karyshkovskiy 1960, pp. 3-12, 1; id. 2003, p. 302, 1.


3 Hekte, found at Olbia in the late 1940s. Obv. ?? Karyshkovskiy 1960, pp. 3-12, 4; id. 2003, p. 302, 3.

4 Hekte (or Hemihekte ?). Obv. Head of lioness left. von Fritze 39 (?). Found at Olbia in the 19th cent., see ‘Verzeichniss altgriechischer und römischer Münzen aus dem Nachlasse P. Becker’ (Berlin 1881), p. 31, 487; Karyshkovskiy 1960, pp. 3-12, 5; id. 2003, p. 302, 4.


59 Unfortunately no illustrations of these coins seem to exist except for the hekte no. 19.


The otherwise unrecorded hoard of 7 staters, nos. 5, 10-11, 13-17, is a typical deposit of Cyzicenes of the mid 4th century as found in the Black Sea region, see HURTER / LIEWALD 2004, pp. 30-31 with map of the find spots.


**FINDS OF CYZICENE COINS FROM NICONIUM**

*Alexeev / Loboda V.P.*  *Alexeev / P.G.*  Loboda, Odessa Numismatic Museum, vol. III, Antique and Medieval Coins of the Northern West Black Sea Region (Odessa 2004)


Dr. Nina A. Frolova  
State Historical Museum  
Red Square 1/2  
Moscow 103012  
Russia

Dr. Tatyana N. Smekalova  
P.O. Box 87  
St. Petersburg 19008  
Russia

Dr. Yuri L. Djukov  
State Hermitage Collection  
Dworzowaja Embarkment 34-36  
St. Petersburg 191065  
Russia

*Zusammenfassung*

Publiziert sind hier die kyzikenischen Elektronmünzen der Eremitage, St. Petersburg, und des Historischen Museums in Moskau. Die Bestände der beiden Institutionen wurden erstmals zusammengelegt; angeordnet sind sie nicht in der Reihenfolge von Fritzes Gruppen, sondern sie folgen dem chronologisch wahrscheinlicheren Arrangement der Bostoner Sammlung. Angegeben sind ebenfalls die Resultate der Analysen der Stücke aus der Eremitage.


61 These two coins are the first Cyzicenes ever found at Niconium (present-day Roksolany on the Dniestr estuary, Ukraine).
PLATE 1

1  2  3  4  5  6  7

8  9  10  11  12

13  14  15  16  17  18

19  20  21  22  23  24

N.A. Frolova / T.N. Smekalova / Y.L. Djukov  Cyzicenes from the State Historical Museum, Moscow, and the State Hermitage Collections, St. Petersburg  (1)
N.A. Frolova / T.N. Smekalova / Y.L. Djukov  Cyzicenes from the State Historical Museum, Moscow, and the State Hermitage Collections, St. Petersburg (2)
N.A. Frolova / T.N. Smekalova / Y.L. Djukov  Cyzicenes from the State Historical Museum, Moscow, and the State Hermitage Collections, St. Petersburg  (3)